

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COPENH 05920 031927Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /065 W  
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P 031650Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5231  
ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 5920

FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

STATE ALSO FOR PA BLAIR AND EUR/P: GEHRON; USIA FOR IEU; ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NATO DA  
SUBJECT: ORLA MOLLER NAMED AS HEAD OF NATO INFORMATION SERVICE

REF: NATO 9399 B. COPENHAGEN 5872 C. COPENHAGEN 5919

1. I FELT THAT OUR MEETINGS LAST WEEK WERE MOST USEFUL, AND I MUCH APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN THEM. THIS IS THE KIND OF INTERCHANGE THAT IS HELPFUL TO ALL OF US AND I HOPE IT WILL BECOME A REGULAR PRACTICE.

2. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED OUR CABLES (REFS B AND C) ABOUT THE RECENT DANISH GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE IN WHICH ORLA MOLLER RESIGNED HIS POSTS AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE. THESE CABLES GIVE THE RATIONALE FOR THIS DECISION AND OUR INTERPRETATION OF IT. HOWEVER, SINCE ORLA MOLLER WILL SOON TAKE UP HIS JOB IN BRUSSELS, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL WORD ABOUT HIM AS A PERSON.

3. AS DEFENSE MINISTER, ORLA MOLLER HAS BEEN A FORTHRIGHT FRIEND  
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PAGE 02 COPENH 05920 031927Z

OF THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH OBLIGES THE MAJOR PARTIES TO SUPPORT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, REGARDLESS OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. WHILE THE 1977 DEFENSE AGREEMENT LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IT WAS THE BEST WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR POLITICALLY AT THIS TIME. ORLA MOLLER HELPED PUSH THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE FOLKETING OVER THE OBJECT-

IONS OF THE LEFT WING MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY, SOME OF WHOM WERE TRYING TO SHAVE IT DOWN EVEN MORE.

4. MOLLER WAS THE DANE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING DENMARK TO JOIN THE F-16 PROGRAM. HE RESISTED STRONG PRESSURES FROM BOTH THE FRENCH AND SWEDES, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER, TO BEAT OUT THE F-16.

5. MOLLER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FIRM FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF NATO. HE WILL NOT HAVE TO BE SOLD ON THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE HAS "FOR SALE" BUT HE MAY NEED SOME LESSONS IN "PACKAGING", SINCE HE HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY NOTED FOR HIS SMOOTH PUBLIC RELATIONS. AS A MAN, HE IS FORCEFUL AND ACTIVE AND WILL MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT QUICKLY.

6. WEARING HIS OTHER HAT AS JUSTICE MINISTER, MOLLER HAS ALSO HELPED TO FURTHER US INTERESTS. IN A COUNTRY WHERE SOME OFFICIALS WOULD PREFER TO HIDE THEIR HEADS IN OSTRICH-LIKE FASHION FROM THE DANGERS OF TERRORISM, ORLA MOLLER HAS TAKEN A STRONG STAND, OFTEN OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. HE LED THE ATTACK LAST YEAR AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN SMUGGLERS; HE HAS SET UP A SPECIAL ANTI-TERRORISM SECTION IN THE MINISTRY; AND HE HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH US ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. HIS FIRM STAND ON THESE ISSUES IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY HE HAS BECOME THE TARGET FOR EXCESSIVE PRESS CRITICISM.

7. WHILE ORLA MOLLER HAS BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE US AND  
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PAGE 03 COPENH 05920 031927Z

STRONGLY SUPPORTS NATO AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS, I DO NOT WISH TO IMPLY THAT HE IS NOT HIS OWN MAN. HE HAS A STRONG PERSONALITY AND STICKS TO HIS GUNS EVEN WHEN A SMOOTHER APPROACH MIGHT BE MORE PRAGMATIC.

8. IN SHORT, I THINK YOU WILL FIND HIM TO BE A VALUABLE COLLEAGUE AND A LOYAL MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 741616  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ORLA MOLLER NAMED AS HEAD OF NATO INFORMATION SERVICE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, DA, NATO, (MOLLER, ORLA)  
**To:** USNATO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7c75a423-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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